

ARDA IN ONTARIO

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General Publications
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an action
program
with an
emphasis
on people



Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act



Ontario

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Hon. Wm. A. Stewart, *Minister*

T. R. Hilliard, *Deputy Minister*

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This is the story of ARDA in Ontario:
a program of hope and fulfillment that
works because it utilizes the
energies and initiative of local
people / a program of conservation and
renewal of all resources, human and
natural / a program aimed at strengthening
the family farm business, creating jobs,
and alternate opportunities / building
a better quality of life for rural
people / this is rural development,
and ARDA has provided the
programs, techniques, and financing
necessary to attain these goals.

Planting corn in the early 1900's
Photograph by the late R. R. Sallows of Goderich



Modern four-row corn planter



Rural Ontario in Transition

It has been said the only thing constant in rural Ontario is change. Certainly no industry has seen such sweeping changes, such a flood of new technology as has the basic industry of agriculture. Research, education, agricultural extension, modern marketing techniques, mechanization, and new cultural practices have brought an efficiency and productivity to agriculture that is unmatched in any other industry.

This tide of technology and abundance has released many from the land. It has changed the face of the rural community. The direct beneficiaries of this technological revolution in Canadian agriculture have been the consumers who are able to buy more food products with the returns from an hour's labor than in any other country in the world.

But not all rural residents have shared equally in the fruits of the steadily increasing productivity of Ontario agriculture. Some have been able to adjust, to cope with this new technology, but others have been unable to keep up with the pace and they have become the victims of agricultural progress.

The early settler carved his farm from the Queen's bush with a few simple tools. His greatest assets were a strong back, a willing heart, and his own stubborn determination. Ontario's farmer in the 1970's also requires a strong back, a willing heart, and great determination, but his success or failure will depend on the technical skill and managerial ability he can muster, the availability of adequate capital, and the quality of the land and resources at his disposal.

Many farmers are unable to develop their management potential because they have too little land. Acquiring more land requires new capital expenditures for livestock, equip-

ment, additional buildings, and drainage works. These farmers need a means of acquiring this land without incurring debts that hinder and inhibit their development plan.

There are those who have lost heart, farmers who cannot keep pace with the increasing complexity and technology of agriculture, and who are reluctant to take on the burden of a larger farm with its managerial demands and responsibilities. Some are too old, too set in their ways, some simply cannot put together the means of production on marginal land. Some farmers would like to retire, others are just tired, and want a way out. They have been left behind and they need help.

Many of these people would like to obtain off-farm employment, and in some cases they would like to leave the farm completely. Unfortunately their skills are often limited and they are not readily absorbed in the off-farm labor force.

Whether moving into an expanded farm operation, or moving out of agriculture into some other occupation, people in transition need financial help to ease them through this trying period of adjustment; they need counselling, they need guidance, and they need advice and encouragement. More than anything else they can benefit from a comprehensive public program of rural development.

In Ontario, ARDA has been designated as the instrument through which rural development can be accomplished. The purpose of this publication is to illustrate some of the solutions that have evolved through ARDA's participation in a variety of people-oriented, rural development projects.

ARDA - a program involving people

ARDA had its genesis in 1961 with the enactment by the Government of Canada of the "Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act". Its application to Ontario was made possible through the implementation of complimentary legislation in 1962 which created the Ontario ARDA Directorate, and established an ARDA Branch within the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

ARDA programs are a cooperative effort of the Federal and Provincial governments with the cost of projects shared under the terms of the prevailing Federal-Provincial Rural Development Agreement. The first such agreement was entered into in 1962, a 5-year agreement was signed in 1965, and the current 5-year agreement covers the period 1970 to 1975.

ARDA is a program of resource development – human resources, physical resources, and natural resources. From the beginning the greatest emphasis has been on people. The basic philosophy of all ARDA programs and projects is that rural people have the pride, the initiative, and the ability to meet the challenge of change if some agency can provide the necessary funds and technical expertise. ARDA acts as a catalyst, bringing together the men and the means to establish effective programs.

Progress through ARDA is evident all across Ontario. Here are some examples:

- More than 2,006 small, uneconomic farms have been acquired, and consolidated into 1,400 viable farm units that make possible a satisfactory income for each farm family.
- More than 190,000 acres of submarginal agricultural lands have been acquired by ARDA and transferred to such public uses as forestry, recreation, wildlife production, and water conservation.

- Fencerows have been removed, fields enlarged and drained to accommodate modern production equipment thereby permitting maximum efficiency of manpower and machinery.
- Resource-based industries have been assisted, established or expanded, in rural areas to provide employment opportunities and to stimulate the economy.
- Indian bands have been encouraged and financially assisted in the development of projects to provide income and employment for their people.
- Seven community pastures with a livestock carrying capacity for 3,500 head have been established and are being managed by local pasture boards.
- Two-thousand farmers have participated in Business of Farming courses to upgrade their skills in farm management.
- One hundred and thirty-five small dams and reservoirs have been built in rural communities with ARDA assistance to municipalities and Conservation Authorities to ensure water supplies and recreation facilities. Thousands of farm wells and farm ponds have been provided through ARDA assistance to farmers.
- With ARDA help to rural municipalities, many agricultural outlet drainage ditches have been constructed.

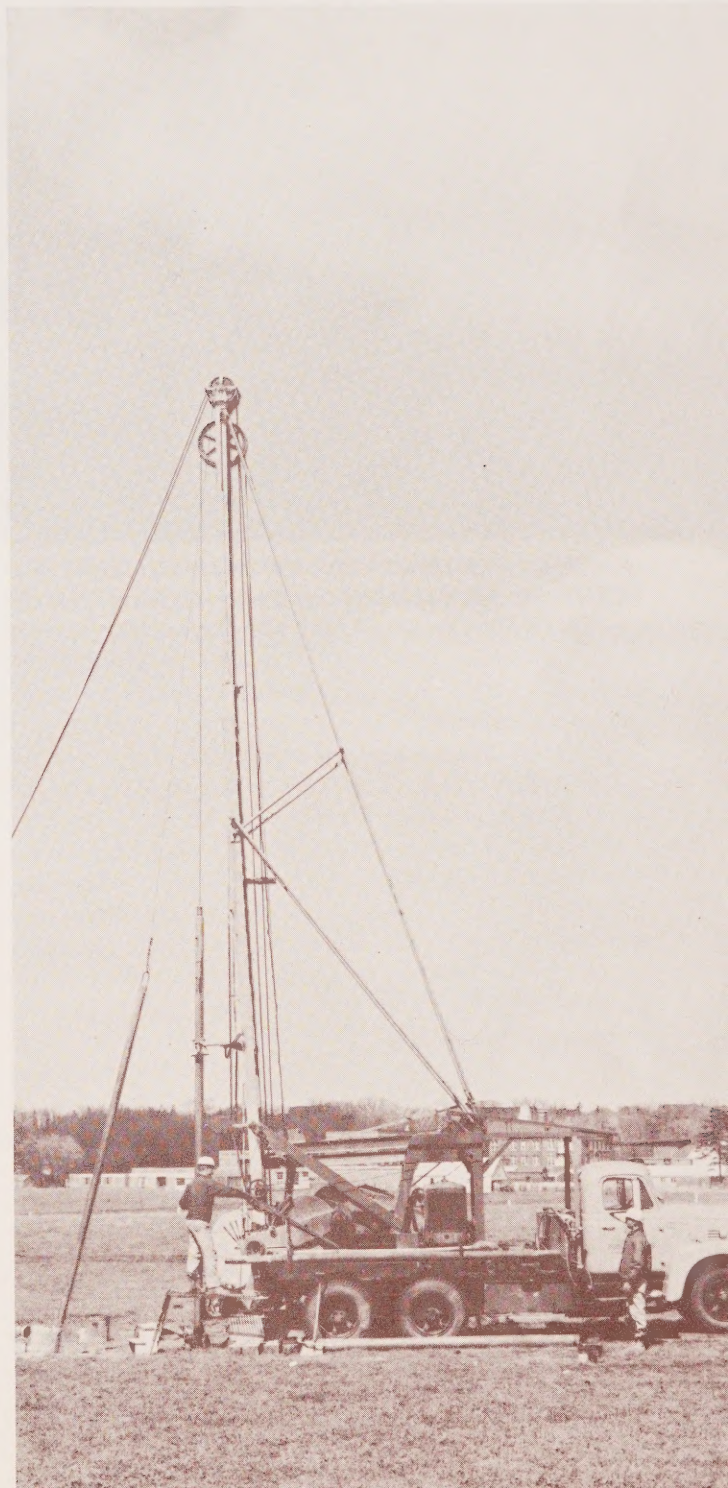
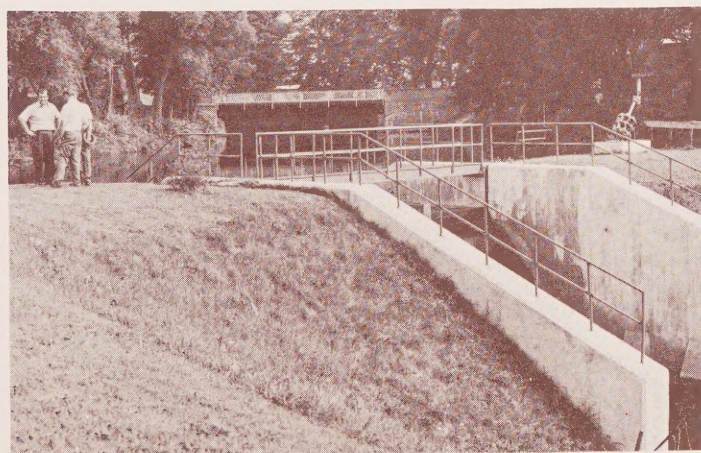
Camping in the wilderness (top). ARDA has helped to assemble land in many parts of Ontario for recreation.

Kitchen-table counselling (center). ARDA's rural development counsellors are the key to ensuring wide involvement of rural people in ARDA programs.

Control dam (bottom). ARDA has made it possible for many small communities to have water supplies for fire prevention and recreation.

Drilling for water (right). ARDA provides capital grants to farmers for ponds or wells.

Top photograph, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.





People are important. Independence and a good livelihood for Bruce County farmer, Leo Murray and his sons, is a reality because of ARDA programs.



Creating an Economic Farm Unit

An economic farm unit has been described as one that combines the necessary land, resources, capital, and labor to generate an adequate standard of living for the members of the farm family. Sometimes one or more of these factors are either missing or need supplementing. A practical example of rural development through a combination of farm enlargement and other programs can be found on the farm of Leo Murray and Sons, R.R. 3, Holyrood, in Bruce County.

In 1968, Mr. Murray was operating a 250-acre farm 11 miles east of Lake Huron. With two teenage sons anxious to stay on the farm, and two younger sons of preschool age, he needed more land, livestock, and capital. His farm required drainage, there were fencerows that needed to be removed, ditches to be dredged, and a silo to be built. He sought the advice of his county Agricultural Representative and was directed to ARDA.

In 1968 under Ontario's *Farm Enlargement Program* ARDA bought an adjacent 100-acre farm from a man who wished to remain in the house, but give up farming. The farm was leased to the Murrays under a 5-year agreement. Under the terms of such agreements, farmers leasing ARDA farms have the option at the end of the 5-year period to either purchase the farm or lease it for an additional 5 years. If they choose to purchase, they pay the original cost of the land plus any capital improvements that ARDA may have made in the interim. This program enables the farmer to expand without tying up his capital. In effect the new land pays its way into the enlarged unit. In this particular case, about 50 of the 100 acres have been drained to increase productivity.

The doorway to expansion and consolidation now being opened, Leo Murray took this opportunity to buy another 50 acres. Having created a larger unit, he set about to modernize his farm. With the developments in corn production, and its potential for livestock feed, he decided to build a new silo on the home farm. He did this with the assistance of a Capital Grant from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture

and Food. However, his corn crop was hindered by poorly drained land, and again ARDA was called upon to open the door.

Three municipal drains serving the Murray farm were dredged. Under the terms of the 1965-70 Federal-Provincial ARDA Agreement, municipal drains, with an engineer's report, qualified for payment by ARDA of one-third of the cost. Leo's share of the cost was approximately \$3,000. With satisfactory outlets established, he was able to get on with the job of tile-draining his fields.

In four short years the transformation of this farm has been remarkable. In 1972 Leo Murray and Sons have an expanding operation. They are in the process of acquiring an additional 100 acres adjacent to the home farm, also with the aid of ARDA's Farm Enlargement Program. This farm has a good house, and in the near future it will probably accommodate one of the sons when he establishes his own home. This property will bring the Murray holdings to 650 acres, enough to provide security for two generations of the family and promise of a good future for sons Jim, 17, Kevin, 15, Michael, 5, and Jeffrey, 3.

This Bruce County farm provides ample evidence that ARDA programs benefit progressive farmers. The additional land enabled the Murray's to keep more cattle. The lease-back arrangement permitted them to use their capital to expand the herd and improve facilities. ARDA assistance was available to remove old fencerows and stone piles, creating larger fields that would accommodate larger machinery and give access to previously unused land. The silo provides greater feed storage and more flexibility. The drainage made possible a longer growing season and better crops. By removing some of the risk and uncertainty from his cropping program, this farm will provide a good living for Leo Murray and his family.

For those who choose to leave the farm

Each year there are those who leave the farm to seek a new life and a better income. Some have been disheartened by worn-out marginal land and the poverty such conditions generate. Others have found they are unable to cope with the demands of farm ownership and management. Some are attracted to the bright lights and the action of urban centers. Their skills, however, are limited, they have few resources, and jobs prove to be difficult to come by.

For some, it would be better if they could stay in agriculture, working for another farmer, utilizing the skills they have in the environment they know and understand. Their roots are in their rural community and they find it extremely difficult to cope with urban pressures and the high cost of living. There is a shortage of reliable, experienced workers in agriculture, people who understand livestock, who know how to operate and maintain power equipment. Many of those who leave the home farm could become full-time workers on larger farms, although they sometimes need additional training.

The Kemptville College of Agricultural Technology, at ARDA's request, introduced a course to train people in the use of modern farm equipment, and to familiarize them with the latest techniques on larger poultry and livestock farms.

The greatest need for full-time workers is in the dairy industry. The Kemptville course emphasizes dairy technology. Practical work is combined with formal education to upgrade the skills of these workers. Upon completion of the course students go out into the agricultural work force with experience in the use of modern milking equipment, mastitis control programs, dairy sanitation, and feeds and feeding. They receive permanent employment at a good salary, in most cases with housing provided. For the first time in their lives they are able to enjoy a vacation with their families, regular hours, freedom from debt and the disillusionment that is the legacy of a marginal farm.

ARDA also helps those who wish to remain on their own



Back to school for ARDA Business of Farming course.

farms, but who recognize the need to upgrade their skills, to become better farmers, and more capable farm managers. Working cooperatively with Canada Manpower, ARDA in Ontario has developed a series of courses called "Business of Farming". These courses are held in communities during the winter months. The courses last 8 weeks, and those attending receive an allowance. Subjects include farm management, feed handling methods, ration planning for livestock and poultry, as well as basic maths and reading comprehension to aid the farmer in interpreting and assessing the wealth of technical information available to him. The emphasis is on the practical rather than the theoretical, and the goal is to assist these farm people to a better utilization of their skills and resources.

There are also training courses available for those who wish to leave agriculture. Again through the cooperation of ARDA and Canada Manpower, training courses in the trades and professions are available. ARDA counsellors meet with these families to discuss their future, to weigh the alternatives, and to provide them with information. Often the ARDA counsellor is the first person who has discussed these matters with them in an objective, straightforward manner.

For these people the active word in the ARDA mandate is "rehabilitate". What greater challenge than to give a new start to those in need of support, encouragement, and inspiration?

And for those who wish to retire

Middle age and eventually the question of retirement poses great problems for the rural family. When the farm is large and there are sons actively involved in the operation, the phasing out process for the parent is relatively easy. There is usually a second house on such a farm, and the grandparents retire there to spend their golden years in dignity, and security. When there is no one to take over the farm, when all the farm assets will be used in the purchase of a retirement home in town, middle-aged rural people find themselves in a difficult situation.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Woodall of R.R. 8, Picton in Prince Edward County found themselves in these circumstances. In his younger years Mr. Woodall had worked for nearby farmers, saving his money until he could acquire his own farm. Eventually the day came when he and his wife purchased 172 acres on which they raised their family and lived comfortably. However, as the family grew up and left the farm, continuing the operation became increasingly difficult. Mrs. Woodall's failing eyesight made it impossible for her to assist in the farm operation and attempts to sell the property soon demonstrated that there were insufficient resources with which to purchase a retirement home in town, and provide a nest-egg to meet future contingencies.

In 1970 Edgar Woodall was told about the ARDA retirement program by a neighbor. He contacted the local Rural Development Counsellor, Bob Deyo, for further information. After discussing the alternatives a formal agreement was made and ARDA purchased the Woodall farm. However, Mr. and Mrs. Woodall have a lifetime lease on the house and one acre of property. The farm itself is leased to a neighbor who needed the additional acreage to carry more livestock and create a viable unit.

ARDA's retirement program fits in well with the needs of the Woodalls. They are freed from the burden of maintaining the farm and buildings. They were paid cash for their farm and they have the interest on that money to maintain them. They are able to keep a large garden and live active lives in their familiar environment. For Mrs. Woodall, it means comfort and security as well as the enjoyment of being close to old friends and neighbors. Edgar Woodall, if he wishes, can always supplement his income by helping the neighbors during busy seasons.

Across Ontario, ARDA is making this kind of retirement possible for hundreds of other rural people like the Woodalls.



A happy retirement. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Woodall enjoy their familiar surroundings without financial worries as a result of ARDA programs.

Sweetening the Madawaska maple syrup industry

One of ARDA's most successful programs has been in the ruggedly beautiful Madawaska Valley, east of Algonquin Park. Many farms were marginal, the principal crop being potatoes, and many of the holdings run-down or abandoned. Family incomes of those who chose to stay were minimal, their lives disturbed periodically by summer tourists who passed by on the main highways to visit lakes and parks. However, the area boasts an unique resource – hundreds of thousands of maple trees growing in thick stands on the rolling hillsides.

The idea for the development of this resource originated with the people of the valley. The vision was shared by two men, Eugene Cullinane, a priest, and Bill Murray, a local farmer. These two men, working together, generated enthusiasm and interest in an expanded maple industry. Father Gene, as he was known in the area, a trained economist and sociologist, worked at Madonna House in Combermere. His driving ambition was to improve the lot of his people. Bill Murray saw the potential of the maple industry in the valley. He wore out his family car canvassing local people, promoting a maple syrup producers' association.

There was plenty of interest, but little money, and ARDA was approached for assistance. In 1965 the initial grant of \$65,000 was made to the newly organized Madawaska Valley Maple Products' Association. Landowners in the area with maple stands were encouraged to borrow up to \$2,000 each from this fund to purchase equipment, plastic piping, spiles, buckets, storage tanks, and evaporating facilities. A condition of the loan was that the producer would repay it at the rate of 10% per year, and this money would go back into the rotating fund to be loaned to other producers in the future. The first year, only \$32,000 was loaned by the Association, but it resulted in an increase of \$12,600 in maple syrup sales the following spring.

In October of 1966 the Association phased itself out of existence and the Madawaska Valley Maple Products

Co-Operative was organized, giving voice to the interests and the influence of local people. The Co-Op started with an old building, and very little equipment. A back room was converted to a tiny processing plant. Here the syrup was reheated, refiltered, and blended to provide a uniform consistent product. The 1967 crop, processed in these facilities and packed in 8-ounce bottles, supplied the needs of the Ontario Pavilion at Expo '67 and the world was made aware of this unique organization.

By the spring of 1968, the members of the Co-Operative were anxious to start construction of their new plant. ARDA agreed to pay half of the cost of the construction and the new equipment. The total cost of the plant and equipment amounted to \$22,000. Much of the syrup is sold locally, but the tourist trade takes a large portion of the total crop. It is estimated that the maple forests of the Madawaska Valley have a potential of 200,000 gallons of maple syrup per year. Exploitation of this full potential is a long way in the future.

Maple syrup production has also been boosted on Indian reserves near Thunder Bay and on Manitoulin Island. Grants were allotted to Indian bands who operate the projects, with the accrued benefits administered by band councils. Capital Grants are also available to individual maple producers across the province for building new facilities or modernizing equipment. In certain designated areas of the province producers have utilized interest-free loans for this purpose and several maple evaporation facilities have received ARDA assistance to facilitate expansion programs.

The spirit of Madawaska has motivated an impressive development program in Ontario's important maple industry.



Sap's running! One of Ontario's oldest industries has been revitalized and expanded through ARDA assistance. A maple sugar camp (top) and collecting sap with plastic pipe – the modern method (below).



Employment opportunities in low income areas

Help for a factory

Many towns in outlying areas of the province have seen local industries close down as industrial investment concentrates in the larger metropolitan areas. In some cases these industries failed to recognize changing consumer needs and their markets disappeared. When such an industry closes there is major disruption of the social and economic life of the community. Workers in such cases must either move to other areas, go on welfare or live in poverty. Moving can be disruptive and expensive. Welfare is costly and demoralizing, poverty breeds poverty and retards the growth of both the community and the people in it.

Part of the ARDA program is the creation of employment opportunities in low income areas. In many cases this means encouragement for a local industry to expand, in others it may mean helping an industry to become established in a community.

Such was the case in Walkerton in Bruce County. Canada Spool and Bobbin Co. Ltd. was established over 100 years ago. In recent years the company experienced financial losses, until in 1970 new management took control. The principal wood products produced by this company are spools, bobbins, wood turnings for the furniture industry, and bowling alley flooring. Other smaller items such as golf tees and tool handles are also manufactured.

This company applied for ARDA assistance in the fall of 1970 to expand their operation by installing a drying kiln and other equipment. The ARDA project report indicated that the proposed expansion would establish 10 new jobs immediately and a possible 10 more in the future.

Under the new management and with increased facilities, the company obtained a large order for bowling alley flooring from Japan. Due to the local input and ARDA's involvement there has been an increase of 30 new jobs. With ARDA involvement the company receives managerial and financial

advice, and the workers are directed to retraining programs under an arrangement with the company officials, Canada Manpower, and the ARDA rural development officers.

Canada Spool and Bobbin Co. Ltd. has more than fulfilled increased employment expectations and once again with local involvement the ARDA objective has been achieved – local people are helping to make changes in their own community. A regular pay envelope helps to create confidence in the future and confidence is contagious.

Apple storage for growers

One of the important agricultural resources along the southern shore of Georgian Bay are the famous apple orchards which flourish in this unique combination of soil and climatic conditions. Apples are perishable, however, and storage is vital to the industry if markets are to be properly served.

In this area ARDA has provided assistance to a local apple storage plant to expand and improve its facilities. A forgivable loan to this industry provided the local growers with modern facilities to wash, grade, wax, and store their crop. Growers bringing apples to market in peak condition have won wide consumer acceptance for their product and increased their sales. The local work force increased from a few part-time employees during the fall months to 20 full-time employees. Many of these new employees are rural people.

A pottery for Southampton

For many years the town of Southampton had an economy based on the furniture industry. Like many other towns in the area, Southampton saw its furniture plants close down or move to larger urban centers leaving behind a social and economic vacuum. To fill part of the gap, ARDA gave assistance to an old established pottery manufacturer seeking to relocate in a smaller center. The Royal Canadian Art Pottery moved into an abandoned factory in Southampton and was reestablished with an ARDA grant. Today this plant is the only pottery in Canada producing clay teapots. As well, they have a complete line of art pottery which is finding a market in Ontario and in Canadian and export markets. Local people have new jobs, an abandoned factory is

working again, and the community of Southampton benefits from ARDA involvement.

A sawmill in Eganville

In January 1970 the town of Eganville awoke one morning to find that one of its leading industries – Welk Lumber Company – had been destroyed by fire, putting 25 people out of work. This loss had far-reaching effects on the economy of the whole area.

The people in Eganville joined the members of the local council and L. E. Welk in approaching ARDA for assistance under the ARDA Rural Incentive Program. A project proposal was prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for a controlled grant of \$58,500 to reestablish the sawmill.

This mill, operated by the Welk family for over 40 years, was rebuilt and in operation by May 1970 with 25 employees back at work. Also in this district, farm woodlots provide an important source of farm cash income, anywhere from \$400 to \$1,000 for farmers cutting timber from their farms.

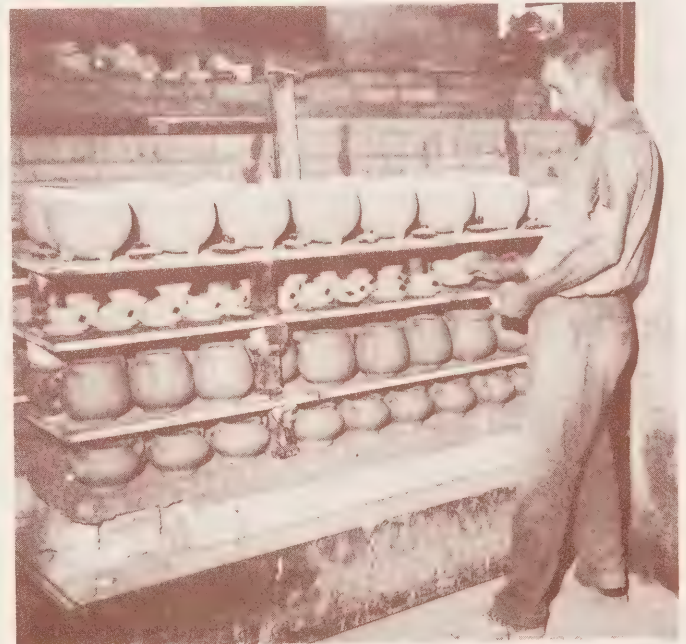
There are no other sawmills in the immediate area that can provide this market outlet. The impact of direct income in the form of salaries and the indirect impact on the community are important.

These programs have far-reaching effects on the local community, the province, and the country. A thriving industrial base will provide weekly pay packets – money to spend in local shops, on local improvements, and new markets for farmers.

This experience is being repeated in many communities across Ontario as ARDA moves to encourage local resource based industries to locate in centers where people are underemployed and need alternate sources of income. As these local industries are revitalized and new ones are encouraged to settle in these designated areas, the migration to metropolitan centers may be checked.



Georgian Bay apples being prepared for market.



Southampton Pottery creates new jobs for local people.

Taming a river . . . developing a resource

For decades farmers in the valley of the Snake River near Osseola in eastern Ontario have been fighting nature. The Snake, a sluggish river, twisted and turned its way through their farmland, flooding the farms for months at a time in the spring and backing up farmers' drains.

In the early '20s a group of farmers bought the old mill in Osseola and tore down the dam. They thought this would resolve the situation, but little relief resulted. In the '30s they decided that a rock shelf in the stream bed was the cause of their problems. The rock was blasted away, but again the benefits were negligible.

Realizing the need for a comprehensive survey of the area, they investigated the cost. The lowest estimate was \$5,000 and during the Depression this was a formidable obstacle. Furthermore there was no guarantee of success. So the project was again shelved.

When ARDA was initiated the local people realized that their problem was the kind of project being tackled by the new agency. They dusted off their old plans, contacted ARDA and an investigation was soon begun. The first step was a comprehensive survey by an engineer from the University of Guelph to determine the feasibility of the project. This survey showed that straightening the course of the Snake River and dredging some of the drainage ditches would bring the long-sought relief.

ARDA agreed to finance two-thirds of the cost of the project under the Federal-Provincial agreement, if the rest of the money could be raised locally. This opened the door to more detailed surveys, followed by construction, and in 1966 the Snake was straightened.

With the threat of flooding removed, and a satisfactory outlet for their drains, the local people set to work to utilize this new facility. Ditches were cleaned and deepened and

fields were tilled. Today the farmers in the Snake River valley can begin their seeding operations weeks earlier and they can grow crops such as alfalfa which was impossible before. Yields are higher, their farms are more productive and their incomes have improved.

To the farmers the project was complete, but to ARDA this was just the first phase of a watershed development program to benefit the whole area.

Surveys on the Snake River had revealed other problems downstream. The Snake empties into Muskrat Lake, and this lake, together with Mud Lake a short distance downstream on the Muskrat River regularly dropped to disastrously low levels in the summer. ARDA undertook to correct this situation and restore the system to usefulness.

Two dams were built on the Muskrat River just before it empties into the Ottawa River, holding back the water and stabilizing the levels on the two lakes upstream. This has drastically changed the countryside. Mud Lake has become a nesting ground for wild birds, cottages have been built along the shores of Muskrat Lake, and canoe enthusiasts can now paddle the old voyageur route. A boggy, muddy watercourse has come to life, with many beneficial side effects.

This was another ARDA project that was of benefit to the whole community. The project provided new income for local people, increased recreational facilities, and revitalized the spirits of men who had been almost defeated by formidable obstacles.



Forest improvement

Tucked away in remote areas of Ontario, some families still exist on minimal incomes working marginal land, with sparse forests and few employment opportunities. Renfrew County in eastern Ontario, for example, has many such families.

These people, too proud to accept welfare, yet untrained to obtain employment elsewhere, eke out a meagre living from small holdings and seasonal employment in the bush. For them, alternate employment opportunities are the only solution.

An ARDA forestry employment project was started in Brudenell and Lyndoch Townships in Renfrew County to improve the low quality hardwood stands on Crown Lands through intensive forestry management techniques. This project employs 30 people for 5 months a year over a 3-year period. Programs of this type require considerable financial outlay. However, there are compensations in income from

forestry products, such as pulpwood cut during the improvement process and the long-term benefits of improved forests for future generations.

The estimated cost of this project was \$254,000 for 3 years, with an expected income from forest products of \$200,000 leaving a net cost of \$54,000. The cost was shared equally by the Ontario and Federal governments under the terms of the prevailing Rural Development Agreement. Average incomes among those working in the project increased by as much as \$1,800 per family. No retraining was necessary, they were doing the work they had done all their lives. Given the opportunity, these people are ready and willing to help themselves. Their children will be able to avoid the hardships faced by their parents, as they are attending local high schools and will have the necessary education and training to seek other types of employment.

A forest grows again. This plantation is part of thousands of acres of submarginal land acquired by ARDA and returned to productive use. Photograph, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.



The development of community pastures



Many farmers have no need or no desire to own large tracts of land. These operators want to become 'better' before they get 'bigger'. If they had grazing space for their young cattle, their replacement heifers, they could increase their cow herd at home and improve their income without costly expansion.

Taking a cue from the highly successful Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act programs in Western Canada, ARDA let it be known early in the life of the first Federal-Provincial agreement that they could consider proposals for community pasture development.

Victoria County was the first county to demonstrate an interest and the initial discussions were held in January of 1963 under the auspices of the local agricultural representative, LeRoy Brown. A group of interested farmers

investigated suitable tracts of land and discovered that a considerable acreage was available in Eldon Township, near the village of Hartley. A local committee was organized with R. J. McAlpine of Lorneville as chairman. They toured the prospective site, which included land that had been used in an Ontario beef pasture demonstration farm and decided to seek ARDA participation.

Provincial and Federal approval was granted to proceed, land acquisition was initiated, and the project was underway. The senior government, under the terms of the Federal-Provincial agreement, paid two-thirds of the cost of the land, and 50% of the cost of improvements. Ontario ARDA provided the rest of the financing, as well as technical assistance and carried out the land acquisition. The pasture farm was to be administered by a committee of local people, including a representative of the County Beef Improvement Association, the County Soil and Crop Improvement

Association, the County Federation of Agriculture, the Municipal Council, and one representative of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The overall management policy and standards would be supervised by the Provincial Pasture Projects Board of ARDA, but the day-by-day administration of the farm was the responsibility of the local committee.

The total cost of the land acquisition and development of the project was \$218,000. The community pasture consists of 2,200 acres of improved pasture land, centrally located in Eldon Township and available to those farmers who need grazing facilities. In 1972, 56 local farmers placed cattle on the farm for the summer grazing period; a total of 602 cattle. The participating farmers pay pasture fees of 10¢ a pound of grain for the season, with a minimum charge of \$18 a head. The farm has been renovated, fence lines removed, much of the land reseeded in permanent pasture mixtures, and a full-time manager patrols the farm during the summer months.

The pasture committee in Victoria County is now exploring other uses for this farm in the winter season. Large tracts of land such as this have considerable potential as wildlife preserves, controlled hunting areas, or for winter sports activities.

Some of the previous owners of the farms absorbed in the community project remain in their homes with a long term lease. For many it was not a disruption in their lives as they were already working elsewhere, commuting from their farm homes. Eldon Township is pleased, for it has a stronger assessment base, a large block of improved land, and new life has been breathed into the community's livestock industry.

The Victoria County Pasture opened the door to a new kind of rural development in Ontario. Other communities have followed. In Bruce County, 1,200 acres of land were assembled by the farmer members of the local committee. Old buildings were demolished, broken-down fences removed, potholes drained, and most of the land plowed, fertilized and seeded to timothy grass and Bird's-foot trefoil.



Some of the rough areas were seeded by aircraft. Plastic piping feeds drinking water to each of the twelve 100-acre pasture blocks.

The Bruce County Pasture has been a great success. Although the land had more agricultural potential and the costs were higher than the Victoria County project (the 1,200 acres cost \$260,000 for acquisition and development), the carrying capacity of the pasture has been outstanding. In 1972, 60 farmers in Bruce County pastured 1,100 head of cattle during the grazing season. One animal per acre is considered excellent. Furthermore, some of the cattle grazed there have gained more than 300 pounds in a pasture season, from May 10 to October 15.

Other communities in Ontario have followed the lead of Victoria and Bruce Counties. By 1971, seven such community pastures, totalling 10,124 acres, were providing much needed grazing for Ontario farmers with modest sized farms, enabling them to get 'better' rather than 'bigger'.

Cooperative livestock sales facilities



Most livestock specialists agree that northern Ontario could fulfill a great need, and at the same time improve its economic position, if it were to expand its production of feeder cattle for the large-scale feedlots in southern Ontario's corn and barley production areas. Although the short growing season will not permit the production of other crops, there are many areas of the north – the Rainy River District, Temiskaming, the Great Clay Belt, Algoma, and Manitoulin that have great potential for cow-calf operations. Furthermore, feeder cattle produced in northern Ontario could be moved to southern Ontario feedlots with a considerable saving in transportation costs.



For a number of years the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food has encouraged northern farmers to undertake feeder cattle production as a means of increasing their income. Grants and subsidies have been paid to assist in the movement of top quality beef bulls and other breeding stock from southern Ontario to those areas where there was an interest. In 1972 the Ministry introduced a program of guaranteed bank loans for the purpose of encouraging expansion of existing beef cow-calf operations and the establishment of new ones where practical.

As early as 1945, in order that the farm people in the area would realize the highest possible return for their stock,

the Ministry encouraged the organization of producer-owned cooperative feeder sales associations in several districts.

Among these were the coops at Little Current, Thessalon, Stratton, and South River. In those early years facilities for the sales were primitive. The sales were often held outdoors in open yards regardless of the weather.

In 1967 the Northern Ontario Sales Committee recommended that ARDA be approached for assistance in providing better sales facilities in these locations. In July of 1967 ARDA agreed to pay 50% of the cost of capital improvements to these four sales yards, to a maximum of \$60,000. It was stipulated that the work would have to be undertaken within the next two years, and immediately the approval was received, the South River organization moved to build a sales barn complete with holding yards, weigh scales, loading chutes, and other facilities. Little Current added a new sales ring and improvements to its livestock pens, while Thessalon and Stratton expanded their holding pens and assembly facilities. In each case local contractors using locally acquired, and in some cases donated materials, went to work to put the sales barns and yards in shape. ARDA dollars boosted the economy of rural areas, affecting both farmers and nonfarmers.

In 1970 expansion of the Rainy River sales facility at Stratton was approved by ARDA. A new sales barn and ring was constructed to augment the extensive stockyards alongside the railway. When the auctioneer's hammer fell on the first lot of cattle to be offered in the fall of 1970, the stands surrounding the sales ring were filled with buyers from southern Ontario. When the sale closed 2,351 head of cattle had been auctioned for a total of \$379,683. The new

building, 150 by 96 feet, houses a large sales ring, an office, scales, loading chutes, a lunch counter, and other facilities.

By joining together into livestock cooperatives and teaming up with ARDA, these northern Ontario livestock producers have increased their income, improved their herds, and built up a substantial equity in sales facilities. They have the capacity to market as many cattle as their farms can produce, and they know that southern Ontario feeders are eager to utilize these facilities and buy their livestock.

But the cooperative livestock sales idea was not confined to northern Ontario. As early as 1950 livestock producers in southern Ontario's Grey and Bruce Counties had become interested in the success of the Little Current Co-Operative, which had pioneered in this method of disposing of feeder cattle. A committee visited the Manitoulin Sale, liked what they saw, and came back to apply this experience in their area. Eleven acres of land were acquired on the outskirts of the town of Wiarton in the Bruce Peninsula. The first posthole was dug on September 2, 1952 and a month later 1,265 cattle were auctioned in their initial sale.

The Grey-Bruce Livestock Co-Operative has more than 800 farmer-members in the two counties, they hold several sales each year, and average over 7,000 head sold annually. By 1968 the yards were badly in need of renovation. Sixteen years of service had reduced the pens to mud and the facilities were badly overtaxed. ARDA was approached for assistance, and in 1968 approval was given for a \$40,000 rebuilding program. Half of this was raised by the Co-Operative, and the two levels of government, (Federal-Provincial) shared the remainder equally. The holding pens were drained and filled with sand, the alleys paved, and new pens built in time for the 1968 sale. The new sales area was completed shortly after the 1969 sale. Weather is no longer an obstacle, thanks to the energies and initiative of the members of this Co-Operative, and the assistance they have received from ARDA.



Rural development comes to Manitoulin Island

*Gitche Manitou, the mighty,
The Great Spirit, the creator,
Smiled upon his helpless children!*

Song of Hiawatha – LONGFELLOW

Historic Manitoulin Island, 110 miles long and from 3 to 50 miles wide, is the largest fresh water island in the world. It is ruggedly beautiful with picturesque lakes and an irregular shoreline offering sheltered inlets, with farms that range from marginal to highly productive. While its geology and its terrain are its principal assets, at the same time Manitoulin is a victim of geography. It suffers because of its remoteness from the large urban markets of southern Ontario. Access to these markets is limited to a roundabout overland route via Espanola and Sudbury, or by water via a ferry service that is busy in the summer months but spasmodic to nonexistent the rest of the year.

The island has also felt the pressure of social and economic change. By the 1960's, marginal farms could no longer support families, transportation costs were pricing Manitoulin products out of southern markets, and tourists were passing the Island by.

In the mid '60s ARDA decided to focus its attention on the island, in an attempt to discover a key that would open the way to a new future.

Although not every program has been of the stuff that makes headlines, the record of achievements on the Island is long. Valuable experience was gained, and because the boundaries of this community were distinct and pronounced, the results were much easier to measure.

When ARDA staff were first assigned to the Island, they found many farmers anxious, even desperate, to sell their land. They wanted to get out. They were disillusioned and in need of help and encouragement. Many were advanced in years, their families had already left the island for bigger and better things.

ARDA's land acquisition, farm enlargement, and consolidation programs have benefitted many farmers on Manitoulin. Marginal lands have been assembled and set aside for alternate uses, reforestation, recreation, and conservation. Higher quality farms have been leased to those farmers who wanted to expand. In this way a number of sound livestock

farms have been established with limited capital outlay by the farmers concerned.

In some parts of the island, large acreages of forest were lying dormant, ignored by the lumbering companies that had harvested them indiscriminantly decades before. These resources were appraised by ARDA and new tracts of marginal land designated for reforestation. This resource is destined for long-term renewal, to be harvested under strict supervision to the benefit of the economy of the island.

Manitoulin's livestock producers have always demonstrated a rare initiative and ingenuity. They pioneered the idea of cooperative feeder cattle sales, establishing the now famous Little Current Sale in 1944. The development of that facility is recounted elsewhere in this publication. The quality of Manitoulin cattle has always been high, and the breeders have been encouraged to improve their herds through the availability of transportation assistance and Herd Bull premiums from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

To increase the output of the smaller farms on the island and improve farm income, ARDA encouraged the development of several community pastures. There are presently four of these offering grazing facilities for a fee. The Cape Robert Community Pasture consisting of 2,700 acres was established in 1969. The Ice Lake Community Pasture, 1,900 acres, was established in 1969.

To assist Indian bands to improve their incomes, ARDA has shared in the cost of two large community pastures on reserve lands. ARDA grants of \$10,000 each were made to the Indian band at Sheguiandah to develop a 3,500 acre pasture for 350 head of cattle, and to the band at Wikwemikong to develop 8,000 acres of pasture land. The grazing fees that result will significantly add to the total income of band Indians.

The harbor at Little Current – gateway to the world's largest fresh water island, Manitoulin. Modern marinas were built with assistance from ARDA.
Photograph, Ministry of Industry and Tourism.



The Bridal Veil Falls, 60 feet high, are located in a 50-acre park near Kagawong. The land was assembled by ARDA to preserve this scenic area.

ARDA also realized there was potential for increased income beyond the farm fence. The island's most promising resource was its irregular shoreline, its lakes, and its rivers. For decades many Islanders had fished the fresh waters that surrounded them, but the industry had slowly dwindled away. The docks and wharves were in disrepair. Now, a new wave of waterborne tourists came looking for a place to tie up their boats, to fish, shop, and take shelter from a storm. Property was acquired at Meldrum Bay, Gore Bay, and Little Current. The Federal Department of Public Works undertook extensive repairs and extensions to dock facilities. Modern marinas were developed at Gore Bay, Kagawong, South Bay Mouth, Meldrum Bay and Little Current. Shoreline cleanup has taken place on private lands, and tourist facilities have expanded to cope with the mobility of thousands of campers, boaters, and tourists who seek the peace and quiet of Manitoulin.

Inland, changes have also taken place. To meet the demand for campsites, ARDA purchased several tracts of land that had potential for this purpose. Five hundred acres were assembled at Wolsey Lake in the southwestern part of the Island. This was the beginning of a multi-use park which boasts 200 acres of modern campsites for tents and trailers. At Kagawong, ARDA assembled land around the beautiful Bridal Veil Falls in order to preserve this natural phenomenon and provide access to it.

These are some of the steps taken by ARDA and the residents of Manitoulin Island to create employment, opportunity, and income. The migration of people from the Island has been stemmed, many local people are now earning a living providing services to tourists. What started as a pilot project has grown to a full scale program of rural development and resource renewal that encompasses the whole Island, farm and nonfarm, inland and on the shore, Indian and white man. Thus motivated, who knows the extent to which these 10,500 island residents can rejuvenate their lives and their environment?

Self-help on the Reserves



Harvesting wild rice. With assistance from ARDA, these wild rice paddies are a thriving commercial enterprise run by Indians of the Manitou Rapids Reserve in the District of Rainy River.

As we struggle with the trials of transition, the challenge of change in agriculture, it is perhaps ironic that we tend to forget the first victims of adjustment in Canada, the Indians. Descendants of freedom loving tribes who wandered across this great nation before the white man came to carve up the forest and plow the land, they have existed in cramped isolation on reserves. ARDA has offered new hope and new opportunity for these original Canadians. Here are some examples:

- two community pastures on Manitoulin Island Reserves at Sheguindah and Wikwemikong, where the grazing fees supplement the band coffers;
- the development of a cranberry marsh on the Gibson Indian Reserve near Parry Sound;
- establishment of a commercial wild rice paddy on Crown Land adjacent to the Manitou Rapids Reserve in the District of Rainy River;
- development study and management plan for the Round Lake region of northwestern Ontario to encompass 5,000 square miles centering the Cariboo Indian Reserve;
- training program for Indians who wish to enter into full-time employment as elm tree removal specialists;
- establishment of a maple products industry at Mount McKay on the Fort William Mission Reserve near Thunder Bay, and a second such project on the Sheguindah Reserve on Manitoulin Island;
- development of ski resort facilities at Mount McKay on the Fort William Mission Reserve;
- development of a marina and campsites on the Dokis Reserve in the District of Nipissing;
- creation of a park and tourist facilities (Beaucage Park) on the Nipissing Reserve, north shore of Lake Nipissing.

Alternate uses for marginal farm land



An impromptu meeting takes place in the new ski chalet with the board of the Mount Madawaska Co-operative and Wil Hermans, ARDA rural development officer.

In retrospect we can look back and comment on the folly of some of our early land settlement policies in Canada. Obviously some of the early settlers cleared land that should never have been assigned to agriculture. When farming was primitive and our demands were simple, these farms were able to sustain a family. However, this is not possible in Ontario today. Many abandoned farm buildings bear mute testimony to the failure and frustration of those who were overwhelmed by the social and economic pressures of modern living.

In our quest to utilize our resources to the fullest we are finding there are other uses for these lands, uses that can realize a significant return in both income and community service. Recreation is one example.

For several years an ambitious group of local citizens of the community of Barry's Bay in Ontario's Renfrew County pondered the potential of a large tract of marginal and abandoned farm land adjacent to Lake Kaministiquia. It was rough, rugged, and possessed a good deal of natural beauty. It was lying dormant, earning nothing, paying no taxes, creating no jobs. If agriculture was out of the question, why not recreation?

The local group evolved an ambitious plan for a year-round recreation area with skiing, boating, snowmobiling, swimming, golfing and riding trails. They approached ARDA, but the breadth and scope of their plans, and the risk inherent in such a wide-ranging project was too much for the ARDA budget. They reworked their plans, cutting corners here, shaving estimates there and bringing the idea to a workable size.

In 1970 they got approval from the two levels of government to proceed with this more modest approach, and the real work began. With the governments of Canada and Ontario agreeing to pay three quarters of the cost, there still remained a local responsibility to raise the other quarter (\$64,000) and to meet all operational costs and deficits in the future. The Renfrew County Council allocated \$48,000 and the rest was raised by organizing a cooperative, selling shares to local people. Eight thousand shares were offered at \$5 each. Five hundred and ninety-nine local people bought shares, and in so doing became a part of the community project.

In January 1971, the Mount Madawaska Co-Operative opened a modern ski-run on Mount Madawaska. A T-bar had been installed to carry skiers to the top of the runs, the longest 2,200 feet. These runs had been laid out by professional winter sports engineers. Artificial snow-making machinery has since been acquired to cover the exigencies of the weather. A temporary ski chalet was built, since replaced by a \$50,000 building. Local residents sell their handicrafts in a craft shop, and employment has been provided for a number of local people in developing and maintaining the project.

Skiers and winter sports enthusiasts, like the tourists, leave money in their wake as they travel in pursuit of fresh air and exercise. These badly needed dollars have been like a transfusion to the Madawaska-Barry's Bay community. The cooperative looks forward to the time when they can reap this harvest on a year-round basis when their original plans for a "four seasons resort" come to fruition.

Without the help of ARDA there would be no ski tow on Mount Madawaska and another resource would remain undeveloped.



Measuring the capability of our soils

Man depends on three resources – the land, air, and water. Each one of us utilizes these three resources every day of the year. We walk and build on the land and we live on the plants and animals that are raised there. We breathe the air and we drink the water. If we are seafaring people we harvest the bounty of the seas.

But of the three, man has come to place a greater dependency on the land. It is imperative that we know as much as we can about the potential of our soils, so we can plan effectively, so we can avoid the waste and erosion that has caused famine in other less favored areas, so we can build for the future, provide for the present, and make amends for the past.

In any program of rural development the soil is the key. We must know what soil resources we have, where they are located, and what forms of agricultural or nonagricultural activity they will support.

At about the same time that Canada was taking bold steps forward in the creation of ARDA, soil scientists and others interested in our resources were meeting to develop a nationwide system of surveys that would appraise and record the capability of Canada's soils. Much had been done by a number of agencies, but there needed to be a catalyst. In 1961 the Canadian Senate's Special Committee on Land Use, and the Resources for Tomorrow Conference provided forums for those who had the vision and the enthusiasm for this project. The months that followed saw steady progress being made, and on October 3, 1963 the Government of Canada officially approved the comprehensive land resource inventory to be known as the Canada Land Inventory, to be undertaken jointly by the Federal and Provincial governments.

The broad objective of the Canada Land Inventory is to classify all lands according to their capabilities, to obtain a firm estimate of the extent and location of each land class, and to make this information available to those who utilize land: planners, local governments, farmers, foresters, and conservationists.

Lands are classified according to:

- (a) their physical capability for use in agriculture, forestry, recreation, and wildlife; and
- (b) their present use.

Special color-coded contour maps have been compiled for each area setting forth the physical capability of every nook and cranny of the country. Agricultural lands are coded from 1 to 7 to designate their potential for various kinds of production. In addition, a special category, organic soils, is being assessed separately to determine the potential of these black muck areas that lend themselves to such special uses as market gardens, specialty crops like wild rice or cranberries, and wild life sanctuaries.

In practical terms, the Canada Land Inventory offers its greatest potential to the planner, allowing local governments to assign priorities and preferences in development plans. Whereas in the past much urban sprawl has been haphazard, with little consideration for future food needs, it is now possible to superimpose these soil capability maps over a development area and plan intelligently with consideration being given to resource use.

It is now quite clear that many other important uses will be found for this Inventory. For example it could be a more equitable basis upon which to base land assessment. Persons wishing to purchase land for agriculture or other uses will be able to appraise the long term potential of the property in which they have an interest. It could be the basis upon which zoning is established to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

It is also very evident that our total rural development program in Ontario will benefit from this reservoir of soil information. The days of painstaking searches to locate suitable land for community pastures, or reforestation, or special crops is over. The Canada Land Inventory provides us all with a ready reference upon which to base the wise development of our resources.

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